

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, March 11. 1708.

WE are now as full of the French sitting out their Squadron at Dunkirk, as we were formerly of the Siege of Thoulon, and every Body spending their Verdict upon them—But above all, commend me to a Sort of People, that are mighty Mercurial upon the Subject.

The French a coming! Says a famous fighting Alderman, *Cujus Contrarium, &c.* *Ad,* *Wou'd they would come, wou'd we had 20000 of them safe a Shoar, I warrant you, they'd wish themselves at Home again. We'd teach them what it was to come among us, we'd show them what it was to fight with English Men——* No, GOD forbid, says a Citizen that stood by, and so the Dialogue began.

Alderman. GOD forbid! Why GOD forbid? D'ye think we could not deal with them, d'ye think all England could not beat 20000 French Men? I warrant ye, we'd maul them.

Citizen. Yes, Mr. Alderman, if we were all as good Soldiers as your Worship; but I don't desire to have them come hither for all that.

Ald. You don't desire it, *you are a Fool*; do you think it would not be a great Loss to the Enemy to lose 20000 Men at this Time of Day?

Cit. I don't pretend to be as wise as an Alderman, Sir, but your Worship need not call me Fool neither. I don't examine what Loss it would be to the French.

French to lose 20000 Men, but I know what a Loss we should suffer, before we got them all kill'd here.

Ald. Why, prithee Man, our very Country People would eat them up.

Cit. Indeed, Sir, I did not know our Country People could eat *French* Men; they must be woundy hungry sure, before they fed upon such gross Diet.

Ald. I mean Allegorically, Man; I don't mean eat their Flesh.

Cit. I thought so, Sir, but I mean Literally they would eat a great Deal of our Flesh, before we could come to look them in the Face; I mean our Cow-Flesh, and Sheep-Flesh, our Country's Subsistence — Pray, where would your Worship have them land?

Ald. In the *West* of *England*, about where King *William* landed.

Cit. *Devonshire*, &c. is very much obliged to your Worship; and, (1.) how long might 20000 Men ravage *Devonshire*, *Cornwall*, *Somersetshire*, and *Dorsetshire*, before our Train-Bands could fight them? (2.) How long would it be before an Army of regular Troops could be drawn down to fight them?

Ald. O presently, presently, in less than a Months Time we would face them with 10000 Men, and cut them all to pieces.

Cit. Thank your Worship; so *Devonshire*, &c. is by your own Rule left at the Mercy of a *French* Army a whole Month. Pray, was your Worship ever in the *Palatinat*?

Ald. No, not I.

Cit. Than I have, may it please your Worship, and there is still to be seen the Remains of the Devastation a *French* Army made in less than 20 Days, in one of the pleasantest Countries in all *Germany*, the City of *Hydelbergh*, and the fine Palace looks like old *Sarum*, or the Town of *Winckelsea*; if your Worship saw them, a meer Ruin, Poverty and Misery covers the Face of the whole Country; the poor People look as if they had been haunted with

Speñres, and many Ages will not recover the Ravages of the *French*, or put that Country into its former flourishing Condition; *Devonshire* and the *West* would pay dear for your Worship's Experiment.

Ald. Prithee, thou dost not know *Devonshire*; dost know, 'tis one of the most populous Countries in *England*, and all the People would rise as one Man, and fall upon them immediately, knock them all on the Head, and never give them Time to steal Mutton?

Cit. Excellent Good, if it were done as soon as said! Pray, can your Worship give me one Instance in History, or name the Time, whenever 20000 disciplin'd Troops were beaten by the *Militia* of any Country in the World?

Ald. What do you tell me of History and other Countries? These People are *English* Men, I tell thee, and they are *French* Men; I tell thee, Man, they'll knock 'em o'th' Head like Dogs — I would we had them safe a Shore — We'd maul them —

Here's the true Picture of our huffing Politicians now, that know as much of Fighting, as *Don Quixot's* *Rosinante* did of Knight-Errantry. Really, Gentlemen, this Notion of beating the *French* Troops, because they are *French*, has been too fatal to us; and if our wiser Generals had not sometimes restrain'd us, we might have paid dear for despising the *French* — I am for beating them as much as we can, but not contemning them; I must tell those Gentlemen who slight the *French* so much, and make them such a despicable Enemy, that they hardly think it worth their Concern to keep them away: They make terrible Satyrs upon the present War; and the two last Years Campaign, in which these despicable People have knock'd many a brave *English* Man on the Head, and baulk'd a gallant Enterprize on *Thoulon*.

No, no, Gentlemen, never contemn this Enemy without beating him; let us learn to beat him, that's the best and greatest Contempt you can throw upon him; but as for

for Goodman *Alderman* that wishes for them, I shall recommend him to the Use of some Protestant Spectacles, which the *French* are bringing along with them to help our Eye sight; and this brings me to tell you a strange and wonderful Piece of News from *Dunkirk*.

Strange and wonderful News from *Dunkirk*! What is that now, says the inquisitive Reader? Why it is neither relating to the Guns, or the Swords, the Arms, or the Ammunition, but a new Sort of Thing which the *French* are bringing over to us, in order to do us some Good by their new Invasion—They have so many Regiments of Men; says one Paper, so many Musquets, says another—But my Intelligence which I had by the last Express from the Moon, tells me, they have loaded two Ships full of *French Spectacles*.

And what Use are they to put them to? Will they bestow them now on us for our Use now, says the *Enquirer*? Yes, indeed they will, and very useful they will be to you; and all that you have Occasion to have a Care of, is only not to buy them too dear; the *French* are Sharpers, and they will have a Price for them; but if you can get them at a reasonable Rate, I assure you, they may do you a great Deal of Good, and I pretend to tell you plainly, we have need enough of them; let me tell you a little of the Nature, Use and Benefit of these Glasses, and then we'll talk of their Price afterward.

As to the Nature and Quality of them, be not at all nice and wary of using them, when they come; for notwithstanding they come out of a *Papist* Country, and were made in *France*, they are true Protestant Spectacles, and will be of a very good Protestant Use; nay, they are fitter for Protestants to use, than any other People, and above all they are fittest for *English* and *Scottish* Protestants to look thro' than other People; for they have been so often used to shut their Eyes, till their Enemies open them, that no People in the World stand in need of *French Spectacles* like them.

In the next Place, to encourage you to make Use of these new fashion'd Spectacles, let me take the Method of our Quack-

Doctors, who, when they have wrought any considerable Cure, get the Patient to give them a Certificate of the Wonder wrought to the Honour and Glory of the Doctor, and this is carefully printed in the next publick Paper by Way of Improvement. Now, tho' by Reason of Distance, I cannot procure you Certificates from the Persons who have had the Experience of the great Vertue and Usefulness of these Spectacles, yet I can name them to you, and refer you to them for Vouchers of the Fact.

And first there is his Royal Highness the Duke of *S — y*, an Eminent, Faithful, Glorious, yet Suffering Ally; and tho' a *Roman Catholick*, yet heartily ready to the Interest on which the general Liberty in *Europe*, as well Protestant as Roman, is Establish'd. How long did this Prince labour under some Imperfections in his Politick Eye-sight, which occasion'd him to make a separate Peace, and as it were desert the Allies, under which Distemper of his Opticks he had run himself into a thousand Extremities and Difficulties? And how near his Destruction was, his Highness himself in several Declarations of that Matter has since inform'd the World: And pray how came he to recover his Eye-sight? Truly by the Help of these *French Spectacles*; upon the first Use of them, he saw presently, all the Scales fell off from his Sight—And six Thousand of his best Troops being civilly disarm'd by the *French Generals*, and instead of Musquets on their Shoulders, these useful Spectacles put on upon their Noses, that Prince and all his People have been clear-sighted ever since. As to the Price he paid for them, I say, we'll refer that to another Head of Discourse.

In the next Place, you have the Princes of *Germany*, and they we find damnable dim-sighted, harder to cure than other People, and presently grow dark sighted again—Now, tho' the Obstinacy of the Disease in these dark-sighted People makes the Cure the more difficult and less compleat, yet these *French Spectacles* have had very great Success there at several Times; for Instance. if they are never so blind in the Beginning of the Year, if the *French* do

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